

**STATE OF NEVADA
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**PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION OF NEVADA DEBRIEFED ON BROADBAND
INVESTMENT AND CONSUMER CHOICE ACT**

Las Vegas, Nev. – The Public Utilities Commission (PUC) held a Special Agenda today for an explanation and update by United States Senator Ensign's office on Video Franchising legislation, including S. 1504. The presenter was Mr. Mike Sullivan, Senator Ensign's Senior Technology Policy Advisor. He informed the PUC that S. 1504 would establish federal rules for entry of video providers; direct the FCC to establish federal consumer protection rules; and would preserve for local governments role of managing rights-of-way and selecting PEG channels. Mr. Sullivan stated that worldwide the U.S. is 16th in broadband penetration. He informed the PUC that Telcos have been seeking franchise agreements, but the process has been slow and expensive. The Video Franchising provision of the Broadband Investment and Consumer Choice Act is intended to make changes so that companies can get franchised at the national level, which would speed up the process. In addition to the consumer benefits, Mr. Sullivan stated that there are economic benefits as well, such as the enhancement of jobs, consumer value from price competition, revenues from taxes on economic activity, etc.

PUC Chairman Don Soderberg stated that, "Consumer demand has run laps around 90's area regulation. We need to move forward and allow consumers to get the products and services they desire."

PUC Commissioner Jo Ann Kelly commended Senator Ensign for taking the lead on this important issue.